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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,155	10/16/2001	Rodney Scott Armentrout	71418	5616

7590 01/05/2004

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EXAMINER

MULLIS, JEFFREY C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	1711

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action**Application No.**

09/981,155

Applicant(s)ARMENTROUT ET AL. *65***Examiner**

Jeffrey C. Mullis

Art Unit

1711

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 25 November 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
(a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
(c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attachment.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-10 and 14-22.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____. 

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
0. Other: _____

Jeffrey C. Mullis
J Mullis
Art Unit: 1711

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ATTACHMENT TO ADVISORY ACTION

Applicants' arguments filed 11-21-03 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

Applicants argue that their end groups distinguish their material from that of McNamara et al. In particular applicants argue that "Although McNamara et al. mention that the terminal lipophilic groups may be derived from di-carboxylic acids . . . they do not teach or suggest that the terminal groups would remain as carboxyl groups in the final copolymer (emphasis added)". However whether or not McNamara suggests that an intermediate copolymer be further reacted to produce a final copolymer without acid end groups is immaterial since production of a carboxyl end group copolymer by McNamara would anticipate the claims at the point of production of such a copolymer whether or not McNamara suggests further reaction of such a copolymer. In any case even the presence of a small amount of acid end group material in a "final copolymer" as applicants allege McNamara suggests would read on applicants' materials. In any case, as pointed out previously by the Examiner that the Examples of McNamara contain materials having an acid number.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey

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Mullis whose telephone number is (571) 272-1075. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck, can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.

J. Mullis:cdc

December 29, 2003

Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1711

